

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-21 and 23-27 are currently pending. Claim 1, 4-11, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 23-27 have been amended. Claims 22 and 28 have been canceled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

(1) The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, and 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,554,408 to Miki et al. (“Miki”). The Office Action also rejected claims 2, 9, 10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Miki. Claim 22 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 20 are the independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that “each distribution channel ha[s] a first edge in fluid communication with the delivery channels and a second edge opposite the first edge,” and that “the ribs extend[] transversely across the distribution channel from the first edge to the second edge.” Similarly, claim 20 has been amended to recite that each module has “a distribution channel having a first edge in fluid connection with the delivery channels and a second edge opposite to the first edge,” and that the “ribs [] extend transversely across the distribution channel from the first edge to the second edge.” Miki does not disclose or render obvious the arrangement of claims 1 and 20.

The Office Action aligns the ink outlet 16 of Miki’s FIG. 1 with the claimed “distribution

channel,” and aligns the ink channels 13 of Miki’s FIG. 1 with the claimed “delivery channel.” The Office Action further aligns the material separating the adjacent ink channels 13 of Miki’s FIG. 1 with the claimed “ribs.” However, the alleged ribs do not extend transversely across the ink outlet 16 from the first edge (i.e., the left edge that is in fluid communication with the ink channels 13) to the second edge (i.e., the right edge), as recited by claims 1 and 20. Rather, as shown in Miki’s FIG. 1, the alleged ribs extend from the left edge of the ink outlet 16 toward the right edge of the pressure chambers 12.

In view of the foregoing, Miki does not disclose or render obvious “ribs extending transversely across the distribution channel from the first edge to the second edge, as recited by amended claims 1 and 20. Claims 3-7, 11-14, 16-21, and 23-27 depend variously from claims 1 and 20, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

(2) The Office Action rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Miki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,879,568 to Bartky et al. (“Bartky”). Claim 8 depends indirectly from claim 1, which as demonstrated above, is patentable over Miki. Bartky does not remedy the deficiencies of Miki. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and its dependent claim 8, are patentable over any reasonable combination of Miki and Bartky.

### **Conclusion**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present

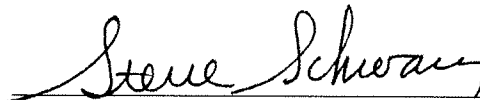
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application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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